

Arts

Springville adventurer tackles Mt. Timpanogos in his latest book

By **PATRICK CHRISTIAN**
Herald Staff Writer

Springville adventurer/writer Michael R. Kelsey has written the definitive book on Mt. Timpanogos.

It's primarily a hiking guide. But it can also tell you about the railroad that once ran up American Fork Canyon and where you can still find parts of a B-25 that crashed on Timpanogos in 1955.

There's a lot of compelling historical tidbits inside Kelsey's 208-page "Climbing and Exploring Utah's Mt. Timpanogos."

Between its pages are historical facts about Provo and American Fork Canyons, Sundance, Heber Creeper, Timpanogos Cave, airplane crashes and deaths in and around the mountain. Many photos are included.

It's available in local book stores or through Kelsey's chief distributor Wasatch Book Distribution in Salt Lake

Book Review

City where some of Kelsey's other 11 books are also sold.

For hikers, Kelsey outlines about 14 trails on Mt. Timpanogos and includes maps and directions to trail heads.

For resting or tent-bound hikers to read, or for armchair enthusiasts who only hike the trails of their minds there's the interesting history of American Fork and Provo Canyons that flank Mt. Timpanogos.

Much of the interesting history of American Fork Canyon concerned mining. The first major find in the canyon was the Miller Mine found in 1870. Kelsey's book mentions that \$2 million worth of ore was taken from that mine alone.

Because of the mines a railroad was constructed up the

canyon and towns like Deer Creek City, Forest City and Dutchman's flat were founded. Deer Creek City was located where Tibble Fork Reservoir is now.

Among the interesting stories in Kelsey's book, is this one.

Near the Miller mine George Tyng built a boarding house and hired the best cooks. News spread. People would come up from Utah Valley just to stay there.

But at the height of his prosperity, Tyng was killed in a small snowslide that drove a nail into his skull.

His body was hauled by sleigh to American Fork. But after his will was opened, it was learned that he wanted to be buried near his boarding house so his body was drug back up the canyon and buried. A white picket fence marks the grave today.

Christmas City was located in Provo Canyon and was a gas station and bar. Whim-

py's Inn was another Provo Canyon eating spot, listed in Kelsey's book.

Murders, accidents and suicides on and around Mt. Timpanogos are also interesting bits of history about the mountain.

Hangman springs in Battle Creek Canyon above Pleasant Grove, apparently picked up the name after a man went there and hung himself with his belt before the turn of the century. Others were victims of snowslides and plane crashes on the mountain.

The March 9, 1955 crash of a B-25 airplane traveling from Montana to Riverside, Calif. left the name Bomber Peak to one Timpanogos peaks.

Five people died in the crash and the wreckage can still be found there. It was painted green so it wouldn't be confused as a recent crash.

Kelsey's book also suggests some driving tours around Timp for the less adventuresome.

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